



**THOMAS L. GARTHWAITE, M.D.**  
Director and Chief Medical Officer

**FRED LEAF**  
Chief Operating Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
313 N. Figueroa, Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 240-8101

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**Gloria Molina**  
First District

**Yvonne Brathwaite Burke**  
Second District

**Zev Yaroslavsky**  
Third District

**Don Knabe**  
Fourth District

**Michael D. Antonovich**  
Fifth District

March 13, 2003

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.  
Director and Chief Medical Officer

**SUBJECT: BIOTERRORISM ACTION PLAN MONTHLY STATUS REPORT**

As requested by your Board, this is the monthly status report on activities related to the bioterrorism action plan.

**Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Funds—\$3.6 million**

The Basic and Expanded level hospital agreements approved by your Board in January have been distributed to more than 70 of the 9-1-1 receiving hospitals choosing to participate in the program. To date, 31 signed agreements have been returned. The EMS Agency staff is working with the remaining hospitals to ensure the highest level of participation. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and funding for fixed decontamination capability will be forwarded to these hospitals upon the return of signed agreements.

Federal representatives have indicated that the new 2003 funding applications and instructions projected to be distributed in March, will now be released on April 1. The local HRSA Advisory Committee has been identifying specific areas for use of these funds in an effort to better prepare the hospital terrorism/disaster response capabilities countywide.

The EMS Agency Disaster Training Unit has conducted 10 two-day Hospital Mass Casualty Mass Decontamination courses. All hospitals participating in the HRSA grant will receive this training, at no cost to the hospitals.

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Funds—\$24.6 million**

Implementation of the CDC-approved Phase I Pre-Event Smallpox Vaccination Plan is in progress. This is a completely volunteer program. Through March 7, 115 response team members have been vaccinated. Fifty-seven employees from public health departments in Los Angeles have been vaccinated as part of the Public Health Response Teams which will be

Each Supervisor  
Marcy 13, 2003  
Page 2

required to conduct contact investigations and outbreak control activities, including ring vaccination. Additionally, 29 support personnel for these teams have been vaccinated which includes a small number of law enforcement personnel to provide security; the Department's ambulance drivers to provide transportation; and representatives from the Department of Mental Health to provide counseling services.

The largest number of targeted vaccinees in Phase I are the health care workers at local hospitals who would be called upon to treat and manage initial smallpox cases. Of the 84 hospitals (including Veteran's Administration hospitals) which have been offered the opportunity to participate in the program, nineteen hospitals have now provided names of volunteer vaccinees – all totaling more than 300 individuals. Additionally, the total number of hospitals that have informed the Department that they will not participate at this time has increased to seventeen. The remaining hospitals are in the decision-making and education processes or are identifying volunteers that do not have specified contraindications. This includes the four County hospitals with 9-1-1 receiving capabilities which, as a County hospital system, will all participate in this volunteer program.

The Mental Health Specialist position has been filled by Dickson Diamond M.D. He comes to Los Angeles County having had previous work experience with the Federal Bureau of Investigations and the Central Intelligence Agency. He will assist in developing joint protocols with the Department of Mental Health and the Terrorism Early Warning Group. He is also working with the HRSA Advisory Committee developing training specifically to hospital needs.

The Department is reviewing the first draft of the National Strategic Stockpile (previously referred to as the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile) plan submitted by the approved contractor, Community Research Associates, Inc. This plan addresses the receipt and distribution of this federal asset. The NPS will provide medications and medical supplies to the community in the event of a terrorist attack.

As requested, your Board will continue to be provided with monthly updates on these grants and terrorism preparedness activities. The Department continues to work with the CAO to ensure that grant funding is obtained and maximized properly. Please let me know if you have any questions.

TLG:kf  
203:006 and C/R 111:005

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Director, EMS Agency  
Director of Public Health  
Fiscal Management